

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN,BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@EXCHANGELABS.COM)  
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 9/9/2014 3:44:16 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 9/9/14

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#### OPA Daily Digest for 9/9/14

##### Congressional Inquiries:

**Sen. Roy Blunt** (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Rep. Dave Loesback** (Iowa) – Letter – 9/4/14: Redevelopment of former RCRA site Elkem Metals Company in Keokuk. Due: 9/19/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

##### State Government Inquiries:

**Sen. Gary Romine** – Email – 8/21/14: Requesting briefing for the Missouri Lead Industry Employment, Economic Development & Environmental Remediation Task Force on 9/9/14. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

##### Press Inquiries:

**Burlington Hawk Eye (Iowa)** – Kathleen Finn – 9/2/14: Questions regarding Univar RCRA site. Contact: David Bryan, 7322 (open)

**RadWaste Monitor** – Jeremy Dillon – 9/9/14: Questions about Todd Thalhammer's SSE report and duration of IB planning period. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

##### Environmental Stories:

**Des Moines Register - Opinion: Iowa ready to meet new EPA air standards for power plants** - 9/8/14 - When the U.S. EPA issued its proposed standards for reducing carbon emissions from electric power plants, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study predicted skyrocketing electric bills and massive unemployment. However, the chamber "study" was conducted before the EPA plan had even been announced, based on the chamber's guess of what the standards might be. Fortunately, their guess was spectacularly wrong. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2014/09/09/iowa-epa-power-plant-regulations/15314355/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**St. Louis Business Journal - Another lawsuit accuses Mallinckrodt of dumping nuclear waste, causing cancers** - 9/8/14 - The latest of 28 related federal lawsuits filed against

Mallinckrodt alleges that people exposed to a predecessor company's radioactive waste sites in north St. Louis County became sick with cancers and sometimes died from them. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/blog/2014/09/another-lawsuit-accuses-mallinckrodt-of-dumping.html>

**KTVI Ch. 2 St. Louis - Chesterfield sewer line break sending sewage into Missouri River** - 9/8/14 - Metropolitan Sewer District crews are working to repair an underground force main sewer break in Chesterfield, just west of where Cordovan Commons Parkway turns into Howard Bend Station Road. <http://fox2now.com/2014/09/08/chesterfield-sewer-line-break-sending-sewage-into-missouri-river/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Sewage flowing into Missouri River after sewer break in Chesterfield** - 9/8/14 - Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District workers are trying to repair a break in an underground sewer in Chesterfield that is releasing sewage into the Missouri River. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/sewage-flowing-into-missouri-river-after-sewer-break-in-chesterfield/article\\_40202ba5-6bf7-55d6-b095-384de2abc352.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/sewage-flowing-into-missouri-river-after-sewer-break-in-chesterfield/article_40202ba5-6bf7-55d6-b095-384de2abc352.html)

**Daily Iowegian (Centerville, Iowa) - 2014 Iowa Farm Bureau summer policy conference** - 9/9/14 - Iowa Farm Bureau Federation voting delegates met in West Des Moines the week of Sept. 4 to develop policy direction on issues important to farmers and all Iowans. Topping discussion this year: the need to assess Iowa's watersheds to better understand conservation progress, and policies designed to solve energy transportation issues. [http://www.dailyiowegian.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_c0d7238d-f9b9-572d-9170-6a9548a87ebd.html](http://www.dailyiowegian.com/news/local_news/article_c0d7238d-f9b9-572d-9170-6a9548a87ebd.html)

**Mother Jones - Bad News for Obama: Fracking May Be Worse Than Burning Coal** - 9/8/14 - If you're a politician, science is a bitch; it resists spin. And a new set of studies—about, of all things, a simple molecule known as CH<sub>4</sub>—show that President Obama's climate change strategy is starting to unravel even as it's being knit. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/09/methane-fracking-obama-climate-change-bill-mckibben>

**Fierce Energy (Blog) - EPA and the war on coal** - 9/7/14 - Reducing the risk of dangerous climate disruption is among NRDC's highest priorities, and we think the rule takes appropriate account of progress already achieved (and likely to be achieved) at the state level in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The so-called war on coal gets injected into everything EPA does. <http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/epa-and-war-coal/2014-09-07>

**The Energy Collective (blog) - Explaining Iowa's Credit for Early Action under the Clean Power Plan** - 9/8/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency undervalued Iowa's existing renewables, giving the state a less stringent target because of its progress in clean energy. <http://theenergycollective.com/nrdcswitchboard/482636/explaining-iowas-credit-early-action-under-clean-power-plan>

**Huffington Post - The Lead Hazard In Schools That Won't Go Away** - 9/8/14 - Tamara Rubin is executive director of the nonprofit Lead Safe America Foundation. On a visit to the preschool earlier this May, she pointed an X-ray fluorescence heavy-metal detector at the rug's faded red threads and relayed the bad news: It was loaded with lead. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/08/lead-paint-poisoning-schools-daycares\\_n\\_5683506.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/08/lead-paint-poisoning-schools-daycares_n_5683506.html)

**Greenwire - EPA proposal would nix lawsuit shield for industrial equipment breakdowns** - 9/8/14 - U.S. EPA is proposing to rescind a Clean Air Act policy that shields industrial facilities from civil lawsuits for violations that occur during equipment malfunctions. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005396/>

**Greenwire - More ethanol in gasoline lowers smog -- study** - 9/8/14 - Adding more ethanol to gasoline reduces the risk of cancer and the likelihood that ground-level ozone will form, according to a study by an environmental research company. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060005379/>

**Brownfield Ag News - Kansas farmer's most important asset is people** - 9/8/14 - "People are the only sustainable competitive advantage that are available to us as farmers," said Lou Frahm, at the Farm Progress Show. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/09/08/kansas-farmers-most-important-asset-is-people/>

**Environmental Leader - How to Stop Cell Phone E-Waste** - 9/9/14 - Manufacturers can take steps to lessen cell phone waste, according to an article in Chemical & Engineering News. Customers will buy more than 1.8 billion new cell phones by the end of this year, and they'll recycle only 3 percent of them.  
<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/09/09/how-to-stop-cell-phone-e-waste/>

**Washington Post - CO2 levels in atmosphere rising at dramatically faster rate, U.N. report warns** - 9/9/14 - Levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere rose at a record-shattering pace last year, a new report shows, a surge that surprised scientists and spurred fears of an accelerated warming of the planet in decades to come.  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/co2-levels-in-atmosphere-rising-at-dramatically-faster-rate-un-report-warns/2014/09/08/3e2277d2-378d-11e4-bdfb-de4104544a37\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/co2-levels-in-atmosphere-rising-at-dramatically-faster-rate-un-report-warns/2014/09/08/3e2277d2-378d-11e4-bdfb-de4104544a37_story.html)

**New York Times - Climate Change Will Disrupt Half of North America's Bird Species, Study Says** - 9/8/14 - The Baltimore oriole will probably no longer live in Maryland, the common loon might leave Minnesota, and the trumpeter swan could be entirely gone. Those are some of the grim prospects outlined in a report released on Monday by the National Audubon Society, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/09/us/climate-change-will-disrupt-half-of-north-americas-bird-species-study-says.html>

**The Hill - Rep. Sam Graves: Small businesses are skeptical of the EPA's 'trust us' message** - 9/9/14 - Small businesses are not interested in the EPA's promises to behave with the new power they've claimed. Instead, let's put our trust in the small business owners, farmers and ranchers who have every reason to protect and care for the resources on their property and who are best positioned to do so without the government's micromanagement. This time the EPA must be stopped.  
<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/217037-small-businesses-are-skeptical-of-the-epas-trust-us-message>

**The Hill - White House threatens to veto bill to kill EPA water rule** - 9/8/14 - The Obama administration issued a veto threat Monday for a bill that would block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from moving forward on a rule to redefine its jurisdiction over streams and ponds. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/217009-white-house-threatens-to-veto-bill-to-kill-epa-water-rule>

**Associated Press - Cities prepare for warm climate without saying so** - 9/8/14 - With climate change still a political minefield across the nation despite the strong scientific consensus that it's happening, some community leaders have hit upon a way of preparing for the potentially severe local consequences without triggering explosions of partisan warfare: Just change the subject. <http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/Cities-prepare-for-warm-climate-without-saying-so-5741091.php>

**Politico - Climate change isn't for the birds** - 8/9/14 - Climate change is the greatest threat facing birds in the United States, and it could drive the bald eagle from its nests in most of the country. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/climate-change-isnt-for-the-birds-110733.html>

**BBC - Greenhouse gas levels rising at fastest rate since 1984** - 9/8/14 - A surge in atmospheric CO2 saw levels of greenhouse gases reach record levels in 2013, according to new figures. Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere between 2012 and 2013 grew at their fastest rate since 1984. <http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-29115845>

**Heartland Institute (blog) - EPA's Phony "Environmental Justice" Capers** - That EPA rhetoric made it sound like EPA's Clean Power Plan was designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, in July EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy made it clear that her initiative "is not about pollution control." Rather, it is an "investment strategy" designed to spur renewable energy. <http://blog.heartland.org/2014/09/epas-phony-environmental-justice-capers/>

**Washington Post - Audit: Homeland Security 'ill-prepared' for potential pandemics** - 9/8/14 - The Department of Homeland Security is ill-prepared for potential pandemics, despite receiving \$47 million to plan, train and otherwise ramp up for such events, according to a federal audit.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/09/08/audit-homeland-security-ill-prepared-for-potential-pandemics/>

**Domestic Fuel - RFA Releases Report to Debunk 'Food v Fuel'** - 9/8/14 - The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) has released a new report today in an effort to “debunk” what they call the “fictional” food versus fuel debate. The report finds that while corn prices have dropped dramatically over the past two years, retail food prices of key foods including eggs, beef, poultry and pork have remained steady or continue to increase. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/09/08/rfa-releases-report-to-debunk-food-v-fuel/>

**New York Times - Yale Fund Takes Aim at Climate Change** - 9/8/14 - Yale University's investment office wrote to its money managers asking them to assess how investments could affect climate change and suggesting they avoid companies that do not take sensible “steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/08/business/yale-fund-takes-aim-at-climate-change.html>

**BNA - Long-Term Emissions Reductions Possible From Burning Biomass, Foresters' Study Says** - 9/8/14 - Increased use of biomass to produce energy can cause short-term increases of carbon dioxide emissions while still providing substantial long-term emissions reductions, researchers said. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877724&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p9h1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877724&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p9h1&split=0)

**Domestic Fuel - Nat Gas, Solar and Wind Lead Power Capacity Adds** - 9/9/14 - During the first half of this year, natural gas, solar and wind lead all sources when it comes to new utility-scale generating capacity to come online. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/09/09/nat-gas-solar-and-wind-lead-power-capacity-adds/>

**Environmental Working Group (blog) - Pesticide Drift Ruins Farms** - 9/9/14 - Andrew and Melissa Dunham lost their U.S. Department of Agriculture organic certification – and the profits that go along with it – for three full years because a neighbor sprayed a non-organic pesticide on his crop. <http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2014/09/pesticide-drift-ruins-farms>

**Forbes - Column: Budweiser Puts Its Diesel Trucks Out To Pasture, Switches To Natural Gas** - 9/9/14 - Anheuser-Busch's goal is to reduce emissions and fuel costs, while doing something green(ish). <http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2014/09/09/budweiser-puts-its-diesel-trucks-out-to-pasture-switches-to-natural-gas/>

**The Hill - Poll: Voters skeptical of fed's energy agenda** - 9/9/14 - A poll released Tuesday by the conservative group American Energy Alliance (AEA) found that 65 percent of likely voters want their state, not the federal government, to decide what energy sources power their electricity supply. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/217070-poll-voters-skeptical-of-feds-energy-agenda>

**Salon - Workers denied protective equipment because coal ash is “safe enough to eat”** - 9/9/14 - A lawsuit filed last month on behalf of 77 people claims that the plaintiffs were exposed to dangerous chemicals in coal ash which led to several illnesses and deaths. [http://www.salon.com/2014/09/09/workers\\_denied\\_protective\\_equipment\\_because\\_coal\\_ash\\_is\\_safe\\_enough\\_to\\_eat/](http://www.salon.com/2014/09/09/workers_denied_protective_equipment_because_coal_ash_is_safe_enough_to_eat/)

**Article 3 - Solar Now Powering Half A Million U.S. Homes and Businesses** - 9/9/14 - Despite what some pundits would have you think, solar energy is no longer an exotic, experimental power source. Solar has become a primary source of new electric generation capacity in the United States. <http://www.article-3.com/solar-now-powering-half-a-million-u-s-homes-and-businesses-914674>

**BNA - Speakers Say Business Case Necessary To Advance Water Stewardship Efforts** - 9/8/14 - Showing the business case for water stewardship efforts is essential to making meaningful progress, representatives from industry and organizations that work with them said Sept. 8 at an event organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877740&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5r0y5a0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877740&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5r0y5a0&split=0)

**BNB - FRA Proposes Brake System Rules to Ensure Secure Hazmat Trains When Unattended** - 9/8/14 - Trains carrying certain hazardous materials would be subject to more stringent brake system standards for unattended rail equipment under a new Federal Railroad Administration proposal to be published in the Federal Register Sept. 9. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877735&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q7k7q2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877735&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q7k7q2&split=0)

**BNB - Oral Arguments Set for TSCA Chromium Case** - 9/8/14 - Oral arguments will be held Oct. 30 on the Environmental Protection Agency's \$2.57 million civil penalty against Elementis Chromium Inc. for allegedly violating the Toxic Substances Control Act, according to a Sept. 4 order by the agency's Environmental Appeals Board. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877734&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q7b1j8&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877734&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q7b1j8&split=0)

**BNB - Long-Term Emissions Reductions Possible From Burning Biomass, Foresters' Study Says** - 9/8/14 - Increased use of biomass to produce energy can cause short-term increases of carbon dioxide emissions while still providing substantial long-term emissions reductions, researchers said. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877724&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p9h1&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877724&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p9h1&split=0)

**BNB - EPA Budget Funds for Categorical Grants, Power Plant Rule Sought by States** - 9/8/14 - A forthcoming request for the Environmental Protection Agency's fiscal year 2016 budget should prioritize maximizing categorical grants for state environmental programs, additional funding to implement the agency's carbon pollution regulations for power plants and reversing cuts to water infrastructure grants, the Environmental Council of the States said. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877722&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p4m9&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877722&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5q6p4m9&split=0)

**BNB - EPA Proposes to Prevent SIPs' Inclusion Of Affirmative Defense Against Penalties** - 9/8/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing (RIN 2060-AR68) to no longer allow state implementation plans to include affirmative defense provisions, which limit the authority of federal district courts to impose civil penalties for emissions violations that occur during equipment malfunctions. [http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=55877737&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5r0m1z3&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=55877737&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f5r0m1z3&split=0)

**Inside EPA - Southern's CEO Says EPA Climate Rules Lack Flexibility** - 9/8/14 - Southern Company President and CEO Tom Fanning says EPA's greenhouse gas rules for existing power plants do not provide sufficient flexibility to allow for state and regional compliance options that he says are needed. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409082480995/Clean-Energy-Report-Blog/Clean-Energy-Wire/southerns-ceo-touts-waxman-markey-bill-over-epa-rules/menu-id-204.html>

**Inside EPA - GOP Cites McCarthy Call For Pipeline Investment To Push Stalled Gas Bills** - 9/8/14 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's recent call for greater private investment in natural gas pipelines as a way to aid the administration's climate agenda is bolstering a Republican push for stalled legislation to boost production and streamline environmental reviews for gas infrastructure. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409082480988/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/gop-cites-mccarthy-call-for-pipeline-investment-to-push-stalled-gas-bills/menu-id-202.html>

**Inside EPA - States Warn EPA Climate ESPS' Fuel-Switching Plan Flawed, Unachievable** - 9/8/14 - Several states are warning EPA that a "building block" advocating switching from coal to natural gas underpinning its proposed climate rule for existing utilities contains major flaws and lacks adequate flexibility. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201409082480989/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/states-warn-epa-climate-esps-fuel-switching-plan-flawed-unachievable/menu-id-202.html>

**Inside EPA - Judge Hints EPA Pesticide Plan May Block Push For New 'Inert' Regulations** - 9/8/14 - A federal judge has indicated he will dismiss environmentalists' suit seeking to compel EPA to strengthen requirements for pesticide manufacturers to disclose "inert" ingredients in pesticide products. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy->

[Report/Risk-Policy-Report-09/09/2014/judge-hints-epa-pesticide-plan-may-block-push-for-new-inert-regulations/menu-id-130.html](http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report-09/09/2014/judge-hints-epa-pesticide-plan-may-block-push-for-new-inert-regulations/menu-id-130.html)

**Inside EPA - EPA Looks To Draft Fracking Study To Send 'Signals' On Safe Practices** - 9/8/14 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy says the agency's long-awaited draft study on the drinking water risks posed by hydraulic fracturing will focus primarily on "best management practices" and other ways the agency can send "signals" to states and industry to address a range of concerns about the practice. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-09/09/2014/epa-looks-to-draft-fracking-study-to-send-signals-on-safe-practices/menu-id-130.html>

**Inside EPA - Texas Health Studies May Aid Opposition To Stricter EPA Ozone Standard** - 9/8/14 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) toxicologists are touting existing and upcoming scientific research that they say helps to undermine EPA staff's suggestion of a need to tighten the federal ozone air standard. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-09/09/2014/texas-health-studies-may-aid-opposition-to-stricter-epa-ozone-standard/menu-id-130.html>

**Inside EPA - Industry Says EPA Memo On TCE Fails To Clarify Vapor Intrusion Policy** - 9/8/14 - EPA headquarters in a new policy statement is citing existing guidance to support early action to protect against the risk of cardiac birth defects from short-term exposures to trichloroethylene (TCE) vapors at contaminated sites. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-09/09/2014/industry-says-epa-memo-on-tce-fails-to-clarify-vapor-intrusion-policy/menu-id-130.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Proposes Scrapping State Air Plans' Affirmative Defense Provisions** - 9/8/14 - EPA is proposing to force more than a dozen states to scrap provisions in their Clean Air Act plans that allow an affirmative defense for industry against fines for emissions limit violations during startup, shutdown and malfunction (SSM) periods. <http://insideepa.com/201409082480977/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-proposes-scrapping-state-air-plans-affirmative-defense-provisions/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - States Seek EPA FY16 Funding Boost For Grants With Spending Flexibility** - 9/8/14 - States are urging the White House to craft an EPA fiscal year 2016 budget proposal that raises categorical grants to states for implementing agency programs "as high as possible" without any restrictions on how states should spend the funds. <http://insideepa.com/201409082480950/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/states-seek-epa-fy16-funding-boost-for-grants-with-spending-flexibility/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EPA Vows 'Waters' Rule Will Resolve Confusion Over Oil Spill Jurisdiction** - 9/9/14 - EPA is vowing that its proposal to clarify the Clean Water Act's (CWA) scope will resolve long-running confusion over the law's oil spill prevention requirements by ending existing inconsistencies between the definition of jurisdictional waters in the spill provisions and other CWA programs, providing clarity sought by the oil industry. <http://insideepa.com/201409092481035/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-vows-waters-rule-will-resolve-confusion-over-oil-spill-jurisdiction/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - EAB Declines Review Of Integrating Wastewater, Stormwater Requirements** - 9/8/14 - EPA's Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) has sidestepped a question over whether the agency can be legally compelled to allow water utilities to integrate wastewater and stormwater requirements. <http://insideepa.com/201409082480946/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/eab-declines-review-of-integrating-wastewater-stormwater-requirements/menu-id-95.html>

**Inside EPA - NAS Backs EPA Labs Organization But Recommends More Coordination** - 9/9/14 - The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in a new report is backing EPA's laboratory organization and rejecting critics' allegations that some of the labs have overlapping functions and responsibilities. <http://insideepa.com/201409092481034/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/nas-backs-epa-labs-organization-but-recommends-more-coordination/menu-id-95.html>

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>



None

**Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

**Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**9/10/14** - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**9/10/14** – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506

**9/14-17/14** – Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Fall Meeting, Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**9/30/14** – Midwest Energy Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

**10/2/14** – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**10/4/14** – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/9/14** – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

**10/10/14** – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/18/14** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

**DRA:**

**9/16/14** - Meet with Arthur Elkins, Office of Inspector General, Regional Office Contact: Renee McGhee-Lenart

**10/7/14** - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

## **Other Events**

### **AWMD**

None

### **CNSL**

None

### **ECO/EJ**

**\* 9/30/14 - 10/2/14** - Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Project Officer Training, Washington, D.C. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

**9/30/14** – National EJ Coordinator’s Meeting in Washington, D.C. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

### **ENSV**

None

### **PLMG**

None

### **RA/OPA**

**9/29-30/14** - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers’ Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

### **SUPR**

**9/10-11/14** – Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) Command Executive Seminar with General Jacoby, Kansas City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**9/18/14** – Northeast Missouri Regional Hazmat Planning Meeting, Macon, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**9/19/14** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. – Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

### **WWPD**



**9/9/14** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**9/8-11/14** – National EPA Small Systems Drinking Water Technical Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

**9/10-11/14** – Kansas Department of Health and Environment Geology Seminar presentations, Wichita, Kan. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

**9/15-16/14** – State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group Pesticide Operations and Management Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139

**9/15-17/14** – U.S. Water Alliance 2014 One Water Leadership Summit, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**9/18-19/14** – Shell Creek Watershed Planning Meeting, Platte Center, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

**9/30-10/2/14** – North Central Region Water Network's Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

## **Des Moines Register**

### **Iowa ready to meet new EPA air standards for power plants**

By Darrell Hanson

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When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its proposed standards for reducing carbon emissions from electric power plants, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce study predicted skyrocketing electric bills and massive unemployment. However, the chamber "study" was conducted before the EPA plan had even been announced, based on the chamber's guess of what the standards might be.

Fortunately, their guess was spectacularly wrong. One false assumption, for example, inflated their cost estimate by over 240 percent.

The actual EPA proposal is much less onerous than the chamber's imaginary version. EPA bases each state's CO2 reduction goal on conditions in that state. Instead of imposing one-size-fits-all regulations or micromanaging each utility's generator fleet, each state has flexibility to design the least burdensome way to compliance. Options include customer energy efficiency, zero-carbon generation such as renewable energy or nuclear power, efficiency improvements at coal plants to emit less carbon per unit of energy generated, shifting some coal generation to natural gas, retiring the oldest and least efficient coal plants, and other alternatives. States may form regional efforts if advantageous.

There will undoubtedly be costs and challenges to meet, despite this flexibility. Some states and utilities will be in a better position than others to meet these challenges. Thanks to decisions made over the past 25 years by Iowa's utilities, elected officials, and utility regulators, Iowa now seems relatively well-positioned to comply with the new carbon standards despite being a coal-dependent state.

Iowa's wind power leadership, for example, will be an even bigger asset as we move to a lower-carbon future. And EPA's proposed emission standard lets Iowa count much of our renewable energy development to date.

Those wind turbines dotting the Iowa landscape didn't just sprout spontaneously. The Legislature began encouraging renewable energy in the 1980s, and governors of both parties have supported its growth. The Iowa Utilities Board has acted favorably on renewable generation ratemaking requests and reduced the regulatory burden for proposed facilities.

MidAmerican Energy invested heavily in wind energy and now owns more wind generation than any other rate-regulated utility in the U.S.. Independent power producers flocked to Iowa to build wind farms. The Central Iowa Power Cooperative, which supplies 12 rural cooperatives and 15 municipal utilities, receives a fourth of its energy from renewable sources.

Iowa is one of two states to have already exceeded EPA's highest regional renewable energy goal.

The best way to cut emissions is to use less electricity. States with well-established energy efficiency programs are in a better position than states needing to design new programs. In the late 1980s the Legislature and the Iowa Utilities Board made Iowa an early leader in energy efficiency policy.

The EPA recognizes Iowa as one of the "leading or high impact states" in energy efficiency. For example, over the past five years Alliant Energy/Interstate Power and Light saved 961 gigawatt hours of electricity, roughly equivalent to the electricity used by 91,700 Iowa homes annually.

Last year Alliant/IPL negotiated a favorable purchase agreement for power from the Duane Arnold nuclear plant, which was approved by the Iowa Utilities Board. This assures the continued operation of the plant until at least 2025. If Duane Arnold had closed, Iowa's CO<sub>2</sub> compliance could have been complicated by the need to replace its reliable zero-carbon generation.

MidAmerican and Alliant/IPL already have generator efficiency upgrades in progress that will help meet the carbon standard. Alliant is switching its coal plant in Clinton to natural gas and reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 60 percent.

Another action improving Iowa's position is Alliant/IPL's 2009 decision to cancel a proposed coal plant in Marshalltown and focus on renewable energy and developing natural gas generation. Instead of being saddled with a major source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for 40 years or longer, Iowa will benefit from the cleaner natural gas plant now being built.

Iowa will still face cost and regulatory hurdles.

One challenge will be dealing with the diversity in Iowa utility power supplies. Municipal power systems and RECs get a significant share of their energy from renewable and lower-carbon sources in Iowa, but that share varies widely because power is often procured in broader regional markets.

Some power supply arrangements may penalize certain energy-efficiency and demand-reduction efforts. Devising regulations that accommodate this diversity in supply sources will probably be complicated and contentious. Compliance would be much harder under less flexible plant-by-plant standards.

The standards are not final. Changes could either make compliance more difficult and costly, or weaken the nation's commitment to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. Iowans need to

remain vigilant during the adoption process so the state can benefit from groundwork laid by policymakers, utilities, and regulators.

**THE AUTHOR:**

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